

From: Larry Cullen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 3:06pm
Subject: The Microsoft monopoly will continue.

Dear Sirs,

Any settlement with Microsoft should insure that hardware distributors must provide alternative operating system installation on PC hardware sold. It has been my experience that systems sold via Gateway, Dell, and other large distributors often include Windows OS whether you like it or not. Some hardware, such as Win modems and Win printers, won't work with anything but Microsoft Windows. I happen to use Linux at home and for users of this and other operating systems it's very obvious what a negative impact Windows has made regarding the availability of specialized hardware. Manufacturers have created devices that will only work with Windows or the drivers for these products only support Windows. Instead of engineering hardware to use generic and open architecture forms of connectivity, many companies form an alliance with Microsoft and produce products that have proprietary interfaces that only work with MS Windows. For OS/2, Linux, MAC OS-X and other operating system users, well, they're left out in the cold.

We live in a capitalist society and the object of a company is to make a profit to sustain itself. Microsoft has crossed the line and gone several steps further by operating outside the law to compete unfairly. Microsoft should be punished for their past practices and somehow restrained from further illegal actions which would give them an unfair advantage against their competitors.

I hope that DOJ won't cave in and let Microsoft off lightly with some symbolic slap on the wrist.

Thank you.